

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-29

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pawlowski et al. (Pub. No. US20010037426). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With regard to Claim 1, the Examiner has asserted that Pawlowski discloses the claimed interrupt message receiver in paragraph 42 (i.e. [0042]) (Office Action of June 10, 2004; page 2). However, applicants note that [0042] of Pawlowski discloses that “an interrupt service handler or driver, executing on the target processor *instructs* the I/O device 370 *generating* the interrupt on the PCI bus 350 to *deassert* its LSI signal” (emphasis added) (Pawlowski; [0042]).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that Pawlowski’s disclosure of a “interrupt handler” anticipates the claimed interrupt message receiver because, as Claim 1 of the present invention recites, the claimed interrupt message receiver “further comprises logic to *initiate* interrupt signals on the one or more interrupt signal inputs” (emphasis added) (Claim 1; lines 7-8). Applicants note that Pawlowski fails to disclose wherein Pawlowski’s “interrupt handler” comprises the claimed logic to *initiate* interrupt signals on the one or more interrupt signal inputs and thus fails to anticipate Claim 1.

In conclusion, Applicants assert that independent Claim 1 and associated dependant Claims 2-8 are not anticipated by Pawlowski and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

With regard to Claims 9, 16 and 23, the Examiner has asserted that paragraphs 0039 and 0040 of Pawlowski disclose the claimed “selectively initiating interrupt signals to a controller on one or more interrupt signal inputs in response to each received interrupt message” (Office Action of June 10, 2004; page 3). However, applicants note that this portion of Pawlowski discloses a multiplexer (“mux”) 448 coupling a bus interface (“PCA”) to an I/O port (“IOP”) wherein the inputs to the mux 448 are coupled to

respective logic controllers 450, the output of mux 448 is coupled to buffers 460 of the IOP, and an arbiter 446 “controls the selection of inputs at the multiplexer through an arbitration policy that is preferably round robin” (Pawlowski; 0039-0040). In addition, applicants note that Pawlowski discloses that “the 32 interrupts pending within the pend_int register 420 are apportioned among the four target logic controllers 450” (Pawlowski; 0037). Thus, applicants assert that Pawlowski discloses a system wherein arbiter 446 controls mux 448 to select only one of logic controllers 450 as output at any given time, and that, because each one of controllers 450 is apportioned only eight of the total of thirty two interrupts, mux 448 only provides interrupts to buffers 460 in response to at most only a subset of the interrupts. Consequently, applicants assert that Pawlowski does not disclose “selectively initiating interrupt signals to a controller on one or more interrupt signal inputs ***in response to each received interrupt message***” (emphasis added) as claimed.

In conclusion, Applicants assert that independent Claims 9, 16 and 23, and their associated dependant Claims are not anticipated by Pawlowski and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of Claims 9-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

The required fee for a two month extension of time is enclosed. No additional fees are required for additional claims. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-6473.

Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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